



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - March 25, 2003

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather favors fieldwork in ***California*** and the ***Four Corners region***. Meanwhile, an approaching storm system is producing scattered showers in the ***Pacific Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, scattered showers and thunderstorms linger across the ***southern half of the region***. Although cooler air is overspreading the ***southern Plains*** (Monday's high temperatures were mostly in the 70's and 80's degrees F), recent warmth and soil moisture improvements favor rapid winter wheat development.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, isolated showers are crossing the region, but ***Midwestern*** soils remain very dry. However, dry conditions continue to promote pre-planting fieldwork.
- ***In the South***, warm, mostly dry weather favors an acceleration of spring fieldwork, including initial corn, cotton, soybean, and rice planting. However, fieldwork delays continue in parts of the ***southern Atlantic States***, where last week's rainfall totaled as much as 2 to 6 inches.

Outlook: A cold front will bring showers and thunderstorms to the ***Delta, Ohio Valley, and Atlantic Coast States*** through mid-week, while cool, dry weather will accompany a broad area of high pressure on the ***central and southern Plains***. Meanwhile, a developing storm system will bring unsettled weather to the ***Pacific Northwest, Great Basin, and central and northern Rockies***. Precipitation will gradually spread into the ***northern and central Plains*** by mid-week. Warm, dry conditions will prevail in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 30 - April 3 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***northern High Plains, eastern Corn Belt, southern Florida, and along the northern Atlantic Coast***, while drier-than-normal conditions will prevail in the ***Southwest, southern portions of the Rockies and Plains, Delta, and upper Midwest***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast in the much of the ***West***, but cooler-than-normal weather will prevail across the ***northern Plains, upper Midwest, and eastern one-third of the U.S.***

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